



Justices seem poised to hear elections case pressed by GOP

By MARK SHERMAN and
GARY D. ROBERTSON
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court seems poised to take on a new elections case being pressed by Republicans that could increase the power of state lawmakers over races for Congress and the presidency, as well as redistricting, and cut state courts out of the equation. The issue has arisen repeatedly in cases from North Carolina and Pennsylvania, where Democratic majorities on the states' highest courts have invoked voting protections in their state constitutions to frustrate the plans of Republican-dominated legislatures. Already, four conservative Supreme Court justices have noted their interest in deciding whether state courts, finding violations of their state constitutions, can order changes to federal elections and the once-a-decade redrawing of congressional districts. The Supreme Court has never invoked what is known as the independent state leg-



Election workers perform a recount of ballots from the recent Pennsylvania primary election at the Allegheny County Election Division warehouse on the Northside of Pittsburgh, June 1, 2022.

Associated Press

islature doctrine, although three justices advanced it in the Bush v. Gore case that settled the 2000 presi-

dential election. "The issue is almost certain to keep arising until the Court definitively resolves

it," Justice Brett Kavanaugh wrote in March. It only takes four of the nine justices to agree to hear

a case. A majority of five is needed for an eventual decision.

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LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK

SUNDAY:	MONDAY:	TUESDAY:	WEDNESDAY:	THURSDAY:	FRIDAY:	SATURDAY:
TICO KOCK STEEL DRUM 4 - 6pm	ANGELA FLORES VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm	JEAN PAUL SAXOPHONIST 6:30 - 8:30pm	CARLOS ORLATE SINGER 6:30 - 8:30pm	MARRYBELL MADURO SINGER 6:30 - 8:30pm	RICKY THOMAS GUITAR 7 - 9pm	ANGELA FLORES VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm

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Justices seem poised to hear elections case pressed by GOP

Continued from Front

Many election law experts are alarmed by the prospect that the justices might seek to reduce state courts' powers over elections.

"A ruling endorsing a strong or muscular reading of the independent state legislature theory would potentially give state legislatures even more power to curtail voting rights and provide a pathway for litigation to subvert the election outcomes expressing the will of the people," law professor Richard Hasen wrote in an email.

But if the justices are going to get involved, Hasen said, "it does make sense for the Court to do it outside the context of an election with



Members of the Supreme Court pose for a group photo at the Supreme Court in Washington, April 23, 2021. Seated from left are Associate Justice Samuel Alito, Associate Justice Clarence Thomas, Chief Justice John Roberts, Associate Justice Stephen Breyer and Associate Justice Sonia Sotomayor, Standing from left are Associate Justice Brett Kavanaugh, Associate Justice Elena Kagan, Associate Justice Neil Gorsuch and Associate Justice Amy Coney Barrett.

Associated Press

national implications."

The court could say as early as Tuesday, or perhaps the following week, whether it will hear an appeal filed by North Carolina Republicans.

The appeal challenges a state court ruling that threw out the congressional districts drawn by the General Assembly that made GOP candidates likely victors in 10 of the state's 14 congressional districts.

The North Carolina Supreme Court held that the boundaries violated state constitution provisions protecting free elections and freedoms of speech and association by handicapping voters who support Democrats.

The new map that eventually emerged and is being used this year gives Democrats a good chance to win six seats, and possibly a seventh in a new toss-up district.

Pennsylvania's top court also selected a map that Republicans say probably will lead to the election of more Democrats, as the two parties battle for control of the U.S. House in the midterm elections in November.

An appeal from Pennsylvania also is waiting, if the court for some reason passes on the North Carolina case.

Nationally, the parties fought to a draw in redistricting, which leaves Republicans positioned to win control of the House even if they come up just short of winning a majority of the national vote.

If the GOP does well in November, the party also could capture seats on state supreme courts, including in North Carolina, that might allow for the drawing of more slanted maps that previous courts rejected.

Two court seats held by North Carolina Democrats are on the ballot this year and Republicans need to win just one to take control of the court for the first time since 2017.

In their appeal to the nation's high court, North Carolina Republicans

wrote that it is time for the Supreme Court to weigh in on the elections clause in the U.S. Constitution, which gives each state's legislature the responsibility to determine "the times, places and manner" of holding congressional elections.

"Activist judges and allied plaintiffs have proved time and time again that they believe state courts have the ultimate say over congressional maps, no matter what the U.S. Constitution says," North Carolina Senate leader Phil Berger said when the appeal was filed in March.

The Supreme Court generally does not disturb state court rulings that are rooted in state law.

But four Supreme Court justices — Clarence Thomas, Samuel Alito, Neil Gorsuch and Kavanaugh — have said the court should step in to decide whether state courts had improperly taken powers given by the U.S. Constitution to state lawmakers.

That was the argument that Thomas and two other conservative justices put forward in *Bush v. Gore*, although that case was decided on other grounds.

If the court takes up the North Carolina case and rules in the GOP's favor, North Carolina Republicans could draw new maps for 2024 elections with less worry that the state Supreme Court would strike them down.

Defenders of state court involvement argue that state lawmakers would also gain the power to pass provisions that would suppress voting, subject only to challenge in federal courts. Delegating power to election boards and secretaries of state to manage federal elections in emergencies also could be questioned legally, some scholars said. "Its adoption would radically change our elections," Ethan Herenstein and Tom Wolf, both with the Brennan Center's Democracy Program at the New York University Law School, wrote earlier this month. □

Live Entertainment at 8pm

MON Latin Dance Show

TUE Arts & Crafts Expression

WED Cultural Dance Show

THU Acrobatic Show

SUN Violin Show

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Jan. 6 committee setting its sights on Pence, Ginni Thomas

By HOPE YEN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP)—Members of the House committee investigating the Capitol riot said Sunday they may subpoena former Vice President Mike Pence and are waiting to hear from Virginia “Ginni” Thomas, the wife of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, about her role in the illegal plot to overturn the 2020 election.

Lawmakers indicated they will release more evidence about Donald Trump’s alleged effort to defraud supporters by fundraising off false claims of a stolen presidential election. They also pledged to provide pertinent material to the Justice Department by the end of the month for its criminal investigation. The department complained in a letter last week that the committee was complicating its investigation by not sharing transcripts from its 1,000 interviews.

“We’re not taking anything off the table in terms of witnesses who have not yet testified,” said Rep. Adam Schiff, who described a Pence subpoena as “certainly a possibility.”

“We would still, I think, like to have several high-profile people come before our committee,” said Schiff, D-Calif.

For example, the commit-



In this image from video released by the House Select Committee, Vice President Mike Pence talks on a phone from his secure evacuation location on Jan. 6 that is displayed as House select committee investigating the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol holds a hearing Thursday, June 16, 2022, on Capitol Hill in Washington.

tee has been able to document most of Trump’s end of his call to Pence on the morning of the insurrection on Jan. 6, 2021, when the then-president made his final plea for Pence to stop the certification of Joe Biden’s victory when Pence presided over the Electoral College count in Congress. Members have not yet documented directly what Pence said in response.

The committee chairman, Rep. Bennie Thompson, D-Miss., recently said the committee was still “engaging” with Pence’s lawyers, while also suggesting it may not be necessary for him to appear because

of testimony from many of Pence’s closest aides.

Committee members also hope to learn more about Ginni Thomas’ own effort to keep Trump in office and the potential conflicts of interest posed on her husband as a result on Jan. 6 cases that come before the Supreme Court.

Republican state Rep. Rusty Bowers, the Arizona House speaker, is scheduled to testify at the committee’s hearing Tuesday focusing on state officials who were contacted by Trump and the White House as Trump tried to overturn the results. Bowers is likely to be asked about emails he received

from Thomas urging him and other state officials to set aside Biden’s 2020 win and choose their own set of electors.

“We have questions for her and we may have questions for him as well,” said Rep. Zoe Lofgren, D-Calif.

Thomas has publicly indicated that she “can’t wait” to appear before the committee after receiving their request by letter last week. Along with emailing Arizona officials, Thomas, who attended a rally Trump held just before the Capitol riot, also had written to then-White House chief of staff Mark Meadows in the weeks after the election

encouraging him to work to overturn Biden’s victory. Emails recently obtained by the committee also show Thomas had email communications with John Eastman, the lawyer who played a key role on behalf of Trump in efforts to pressure Pence to overturn the election.

“I think the committee will be interested, in among other things, whether this was discussed with Justice Thomas, given that he was ruling on cases impacting whether we would get some of this information,” Schiff said.

This past January, Thomas was the lone member of the court who supported a bid by Trump to withhold documents from the Jan. 6 committee.

Lofgren said the committee would release additional evidence it has gathered on the “big rip off,” in which the committee alleges Trump may have committed fraud by fundraising by making a false claim the election was stolen.

Rep. Adam Kinzinger, R-Ill., said that in the end, the public will have a clear picture of a “failure of the oath” by Trump.

“I think what we’re presenting before the American people certainly would rise to a level of criminal involvement by a president,” he said. □

Herschel Walker says he ‘never denied’ having 4 children

By JILL COLVIN

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Georgia Republican Senate candidate Herschel Walker said Saturday that he “never denied” the existence of children he hadn’t publicly disclosed before, telling conservative Christians that his kids “knew the truth.”

Speaking before a friendly audience at the Faith and Freedom Coalition’s annual “Road to Majority” conference, Walker said the revelations about his children had only emboldened his campaign.

“Well, first of all, they knew the truth. You know, I’ve never denied any of my kids and I love them more than I love anything,” he said. “And they didn’t do anything, which just makes me want to fight harder because I’m tired of people misleading the American people. I’m tired of people misleading my family.”

Walker’s comments came after The Daily Beast reported that the former football star has four children, including two sons and a daughter whom he had never discussed publicly. Walker has repeat-

edly criticized absentee fathers over the years and has called on Black men in particular to play an active role in the children’s lives, holding up his relationship with his older son, Christian Walker, as an example.

Walker, who was interviewed on stage in Nashville, Tennessee, by coalition chair Ralph Reed, said he “knew what I signed up for when I got into this and they don’t realize that.”

“No weapon formed against me should ever prosper,” he said prompting loud applause and cheers.



Herschel Walker, GOP candidate for the US Senate for Georgia, speaks at a primary watch party May 23, 2022, at the Foundry restaurant in Athens, Ga.

Associated Press

Walker will face Democratic Sen. Raphael Warnock in the November general election, with the contest

helping to determine which party will control the Senate, now split 50-50, next year. □

Building collapse after fire kills 1 firefighter; 5 injured

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A building caught fire and later collapsed in Philadelphia, killing one firefighter and injuring five other people, two critically, after all became trapped early Saturday, authorities said.

The fire was reported just before 2 a.m. Saturday in the building in north Philadelphia, eight occupants were safely evacuated and the fire had been declared under control, officials said. At 3:24 a.m., the building collapsed, Deputy Fire Commissioner Craig Murphy said.

Lt. Sean Williamson, 51, was pronounced dead at the scene after he and another firefighter were freed from the rubble hours after the collapse. Three other firefighters and an inspector with the city's Department of Licenses and Inspections had been freed quickly. One firefighter jumped from the second story to avoid being caught in the collapse, Murphy said. Two firefighters were listed in critical but stable condition at Temple University Hospital while the other three victims were treated and released, officials said.

Fire Commissioner Adam Thiel told reporters Satur-



Philadelphia firefighters examine the remains of a collapsed building along the 300 block of West Indiana Street in the Fairhill section of Philadelphia, Saturday, June 18, 2022.

Associated Press

day evening that rescuers "were able to communicate with" Williamson and another firefighter for most of the several hours they remained trapped, but because of the degree of the collapse and where Williamson was located within the structure "we were not able to save him."

The former Marine was "highly respected throughout our department" and had trained "countless" cadets, Thiel said. Williamson is to have a "full honors" fire

department funeral "and given the outpouring of support that I've seen and we've seen as a department, you can expect this to be a pretty large event." "We're absolutely grieving, we're mourning," Thiel said. "We have a lot more crying and a lot more processing to do this unfolds as we move forward with properly honoring Lt. Williamson," he said. Murphy had told reporters at a briefing at about 8 a.m. Saturday that: "It's going to be a rough

few weeks coming up."

Mayor Jim Kenney called it "a heartbreaking day for our city."

"For more than 27 years, he dedicated his life to serving and protecting the people of Philadelphia, and sacrificed his life protecting others," Kenney's statement said. "Early this morning, like every day, he exemplified heroism by doing what our first responders do every day: put on their uniform, leave their loved ones, and carry out their sworn duty

to protect and serve the residents of this city."

The fire marshal's office is investigating the cause of the fire with assistance from the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. Thiel said an engineering investigation into the collapse is also ongoing and the federal National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health is also expected to do an investigation, and that and the department's own after-action report are expected to take one to two years.

Numerous firefighters were standing nearby as the rescue effort unfolded, and some were seen hugging or wiping tears from their eyes, multiple news outlets reported.

Patricia Sermarini told The Philadelphia Inquirer that she rushed to the site when she saw the alert about the collapse because her son-in-law, a firefighter, was on the morning shift. She said he had been one of the firefighters on scene but had made it out of the building just before it collapsed.

But moments later, Sermarini said, she saw firefighters pull a body out from the rubble. □



The Apple logo adorns the facade of a retail store.

Associated Press

TOWSON, Md. (AP) — Apple store employees in a Baltimore suburb voted to unionize by a nearly 2-to-1 margin Saturday, a union said, joining a growing push across U.S. retail, service and tech industries to organize for greater workplace protections.

The Apple retail workers in Towson, Maryland, voted 65-33 to seek entry into the

International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, the union's announcement said. The vote could not immediately be confirmed with the National Labor Relations Board, which would have to certify the outcome. An NLRB spokesperson referred initial queries about the vote to the board's regional office, which was closed late

Apple workers vote to unionize at Maryland store

Saturday. Apple declined to comment on Saturday's development, company spokesperson Josh Lipton told The Associated Press by phone.

Union organizing in a variety of fields has gained momentum recently after decades of decline in U.S. union membership. Organizers have worked to establish unions at companies including Amazon, Starbucks, outdoors retailer REI and Google parent company Alphabet.

The International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers and the Apple employees who wanted to join said they had sent Apple CEO Tim Cook notice last month that they were seeking to

organize a union. The statement said their driving motivation was to seek "rights we do not currently have." It added that the workers had recently organized in the Coalition of Organized Retail Employees, or CORE. "I applaud the courage displayed by CORE members at the Apple store in Towson for achieving this historic victory," said IAM International President Robert Martinez Jr. in the statement. "They made a huge sacrifice for thousands of Apple employees across the nation who had all eyes on this election."

Martinez called on Apple to respect the election results and to let the unionizing employees fast-track efforts to secure a contract

at the Towson location.

It remained unclear what steps would follow the vote in Towson. Labor experts say it's common for employers to drag out the bargaining process in an effort to take the wind out of union campaigns.

The IAM bills itself as one of the largest and most diverse industrial trade unions in North America, representing approximately 600,000 active and retired members in the aerospace, defense, airlines, railroad, transit, healthcare, automotive, and other industries.

The Apple store unionization comes against a backdrop of other labor organizing nationwide — some of them rebuffed. □

Spain, Germany battle wildfires amid unusual heat wave

By JOSEPH WILSON

Associated Press

BARCELONA, Spain (AP)

— Firefighters in Spain and Germany struggled to contain wildfires on Sunday amid an unusual heat wave in Western Europe for this time of year.

The worst damage in Spain has been in the north-west province of Zamora where over 25,000 hectares (61,000 acres) have been consumed, regional authorities said, while German officials said that residents of three villages near Berlin were ordered to leave their homes because of an approaching wildfire Sunday. Spanish authorities said that after three days of high temperatures, high winds and low humidity, some respite came with dropping temperatures Sunday morning. That allowed for about 650 firefighters supported by water-dumping aircraft to establish a perimeter around the fire that started in Zamora's Sierra de la Culebra. Authorities warned there was still danger that an unfavorable shift in weather could revive the blaze that caused the evacuation of 18 villages.

Spain has been on alert for an outbreak of intense wildfires as the country swelters under record temperatures at many points in the coun-



A firefighter works in front of flames during a wildfire in the Sierra de la Culebra in the Zamora Province on Saturday June 18, 2022.

try for June. Experts link the abnormally hot period for Europe to climate change. Thermometers have risen above 40 C (104 F) in many Spanish cities throughout the week — temperatures usually expected in August. A lack of rainfall this year combined with gusting winds have produced the conditions for the fires. Authorities said that gusting winds of up to 70 kph (43 mph) that changed course erratically, combined with temperatures near 40 C, made it very tough for crews. "The fire was able to cross

a reservoir some 500 meters wide and reach the other side, to give you an idea of the difficulties we faced," Juan Suárez-Quñones, an official for Castilla y León region, told Spanish state television TVE. The fire in Zamora was started by a strike from an electrical storm on Wednesday, authorities said. The spreading fire caused the high-speed train service from Madrid to Spain's northwest to be cut on Saturday. It was reestablished on Sunday morning. Military firefighting units

have been deployed in Zamora, Navarra and Lleida. There have been no reports of lives lost, but the flames reached the outskirts of some villages both in Zamora and in Navarra. Videos shot by passengers in cars showed flames licking the sides of roads. In other villages, residents looked on in despair as black plumes rose from nearby hills. In central-north Navarra, authorities have evacuated some 15 small villages as a precaution, as the high temperatures in the area

are not expected to drop until Wednesday.

They also asked farmers to stop using heavy machinery that could unintentionally spark a fire.

"The situation remains delicate. We have various active fires due to the extremely high temperatures and high winds," Navarra regional vice-president Javier Remírez told TVE.

Remírez said that some villages had seen some buildings damaged on their outskirts.

Some wild animals had to be evacuated from an animal park in Navarra and taken to a bull ring for safe keeping, authorities said.

Wildfires were also active in three parts of northeast Catalonia: in Lleida, in Tarragona and in a nature park in Garraf, just south of Barcelona.

Firefighters said that 2,700 hectares (6,600 acres) were scorched in Lleida. They added that they have responded to over 200 different wildfires just in Catalonia over the past week.

Germany has also seen numerous wildfires in recent days following a period of intense heat and little rain. The country's national weather agency said the mercury reached 39.2 C (102.6 F) in the eastern cities of Dresden and Cottbus on Sunday. □

Greek coast guard rescues 108 migrants; 4 missing

ATHENS, Greece (AP) —

Greek authorities said Sunday they have rescued 108 migrants from a sailboat that was found rudderless and leaking water in the Aegean Sea in near gale force winds.

The rescued migrants — 63 men, 24 women and 21 children — have told authorities there four other people are missing.

Reports of a sailboat adrift off the uninhabited island of Delos reached the coast guard late Saturday. It dispatched three rescue vessels and a tugboat. Early Sunday morning, rescuers managed to tow the

sailboat to an islet off the nearby island of Mykonos, authorities said.

The migrants were safely transported to Mykonos. They told authorities that their boat had sailed from Turkey to an unknown destination.

None of the migrants on board were wearing a life vest, nor was there any life-saving equipment on board, authorities said.

"Once again, the coast guard saved lives that the ruthless trafficking networks have exposed to mortal danger without even the barest protection measures," Shipping and Island

Policy Minister Ioannis Plakiotakis said.

Late Sunday afternoon, a sailboat with 56 migrants — 28 men, 16 women and 12 women — ran aground at an inlet on the island of Rhodes, authorities said. The migrants, who are all well, made it to the shore on their own.

In unrelated migration cases in the neighboring country of North Macedonia, police said they discovered 71 migrants in two separate operations late Saturday and arrested three men suspected of human trafficking.

Police raided a home in the



This photo provided by the Hellenic Coast Guard shows a part of a rescue operation on the island of Mykonos, Greece, on Sunday, Jun 19, 2022.

Associated Press

northern town of Kumano-vo and found 44 Pakistanis and one person from India. Police arrested the homeowner, a 41-year-old identified only by his initials as U.F.

The migrants are believed to have entered illegally from Greece and were waiting to be smuggled to Serbia on their way to unidentified EU countries. □

IS claims attack on Sikh temple in Afghan capital of Kabul

By RAHIM FAIEZ

Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for an attack on a Sikh temple in Afghanistan's capital of Kabul that killed at least one worshipper and wounded seven others.

IS made the claim in a statement posted on its Amaq website late Saturday. It said the assault on "the Sikh and Hindu temple" was in response to alleged insults made against the Prophet Muhammad, the central figure of the Islamic religion, by an Indian government official. It did not name the official.

Gunmen attacked the Sikh house of worship, known as a gurdwara, Saturday morning and a firefight between the attackers and Taliban fighters seeking to protect the building ensued, Afghan officials said. A vehicle filled with explosives was detonated outside of the temple but that resulted in no casualties. Before that, the gunmen threw a hand grenade which caused a fire near the temple's gate, the officials said.

The IS said Abu Mohammed al-Tajiki, a member of the group, stormed the temple



Taliban fighters gather at the site of an explosion in front of a Sikh temple in Kabul, Afghanistan, Saturday, June 18, 2022. Several explosions and gunfire ripped through a Sikh temple in Afghanistan's capital.

Associated Press

after killing the guard and then targeted the people inside with machine-gun fire and hand grenades. IS fighters outside the temple detonated four explosive devices and a car bomb targeting patrols of Taliban militia who tried to protect the temple. The battle ended after three hours, the Amaq report said.

The Sikh Coalition, the largest Sikh civil rights organization based in the United

States, said the gurdwara was significantly damaged by the attack.

"The recurring tragic violence targeting the Afghan Sikh community is devastating, but also entirely predictable and preventable," said Anisha Singh, the group's executive director, in a statement late Saturday. "The international community, and in particular the United States, continues to fall short of

urgently-needed efforts to protect and safely resettle all Afghan Sikhs and Hindus."

Videos posted on social media showed plumes of black smoke rising from the temple in Kabul's Bagh-e Bala neighborhood and gunfire could be heard.

Kabul police said the gunfight with the militants ended after the last attacker was killed several hours after the assault began. They

said one Sikh was killed and seven others were wounded in the attack and a Taliban security force was killed during the rescue operation. It was unclear how many IS militants were involved or how many were killed in the gunbattle with the Taliban.

Earlier this month, Indian officials held talks with the Taliban in Kabul for the first time since the group took control of the country last year on the distribution of humanitarian aid. The Indian delegation was led by J.P. Singh, a secretary in the External Affairs Ministry.

It wasn't immediately clear whether J.P. Singh was the "Hindu" the IS referred to in its statement or what comments he might have made that provoked the IS attack. It was also unclear why the extremist organization would target a Sikh temple in retaliation for comments made by an Indian official.

Narendra Modi, India's prime minister, tweeted late Saturday: "Shocked by the cowardly terrorist attack against the Karte Parwan Gurudwara in Kabul."

Modi added, "I condemn this barbaric attack, and pray for the safety and well-being of the devotees" □



Migrants walk near the Pournara Emergency Reception center, in Kokkinotrimithia, on the outskirts of the capital Nicosia, Cyprus, April 18, 2022.

Associated Press

By MENELAOS HADJICOSTIS

Associated Press

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Breakaway Turkish Cypriots on ethnically-divided Cyprus must do their share in stemming migrant arrivals, a senior European Union official said Saturday, as the number of asylum-seekers

has shot up significantly so far this year.

European Commission Vice President Margharitis Schinas said that Turkish Cypriot authorities should also be held accountable for curbing migrant arrivals.

"We won't let the Turkish Cypriot community to con-

EU: Turkish Cypriots must curb migrants arrivals to Cyprus

sider itself neutral in what is going on," Schinas said after visiting upgraded facilities at the Pournara migrant reception camp outside the capital. "They must also assume their share of responsibility and we'll find a way to remind them."

Cyprus was split along ethnic lines in 1974 when Turkey invaded following a coup aimed at union with Greece. Only Turkey recognizes a Turkish Cypriot declaration of independence. Cypriot government authorities say the overwhelming majority of migrant arrivals occurs via Turkey and the Turkish Cypriot north through a loosely regulated student visa system.

Thousands then cross a po-

rous U.N.-controlled buffer zone to seek asylum in the Greek Cypriot south where the internationally recognized government is seated.

Although Turkish Cypriots receive EU funding, only the south enjoys full membership benefits.

Schinas said EU Commissioner Elisa Ferreira will hold contacts in Cyprus in July to explore ways of best handling the issue. He also said Turkey has demonstrated a willingness to help ease the number of migrants arriving in Cyprus.

The EU will also help Cypriot authorities bolster monitoring and surveillance of the buffer zone to deter crossings in a way that is com-

patible with EU law since the 180-kilometer-long (120-mile-long) area isn't a formal border, Schinas said. Cyprus Interior Minister Nicos Nouris said the number of asylum-seekers doubled to 10,000 in the first five months of this year compared to the same period in 2021, repeating that they make up an EU high of 5% of Cyprus' 915,000-strong population in the south. He said that Cypriot authorities are working with the EU to facilitate the return of asylum-seekers whose claims have been rejected as well as more funding from the 27 member-nation bloc to the tune of 72 million euros to build a new migrant reception center. □





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Bitcoin-boosting Salvadoran leader asks for patience

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (AP) — El Salvador's Bitcoin-boosting president has asked people to be patient after the price of the cryptocurrency fell below \$20,000 — less than half the price the government paid. According to the tracking site nayibtracker.com, El Salvador under President Nayib Bukele's administration has spent about \$105 million on Bitcoin, starting last September and paying an average of almost

\$46,000 per coin.

The value of that investment in the currency, also known as "BTC," is now calculated to have fallen by over 57%, or around \$61 million. "I see that some people are worried or anxious about the #Bitcoin market price," Bukele wrote in his Twitter account late Saturday. "My advice: stop looking at the graph and enjoy life. If you invested in #BTC your investment is safe and its value will immensely grow

after the bear market."

"Patience is the key," the president wrote.

On Tuesday, when a Bitcoin publication crowed that El Salvador has lost "only" \$40 million on its investment, Bukele tweeted with apparent incredulity: "You're telling me we should buy more #BTC?"

Bukele became the first leader in the world to make the cryptocurrency legal tender last year and was a devoted booster

at least up to May, when he boasted of "buying the dip" in the currency's price. But the coin has slid further since then. Finance Minister Alejandro Zelaya sought to put a good face on the situation Wednesday in an interview with a local television station, saying that because El Salvador hasn't sold any of its Bitcoins, it hasn't really suffered any loss. "When they tell me that El Salvador's budgetary risk has increased because of

the supposed loss, that loss doesn't exist," Zelaya said. "That must be made clear, because we have not sold." However, most companies and governments do write down the value of what accountants call an "unrealized loss," even if they don't sell the distressed asset. Zelaya also insisted the Bitcoin slide doesn't matter very much for El Salvador, saying that "this doesn't even represent 0.5% of our budget." □

Brazil: police arrest 3rd suspect in Amazon shooting deaths

By DÉBORA ÁLVARES
Associated Press

BRASILIA, Brazil (AP) — Brazil's federal police said Saturday that a third suspect in the deaths of British journalist Dom Phillips and Indigenous expert Bruno Pereira has been arrested.

The pair, whose remains were found after they went missing almost two weeks ago, were shot to death, according to an autopsy. Phillips was shot in the chest and Pereira was shot in the head and the abdomen, police said in a statement.

It said the autopsy indicated the use of a "firearm with typical hunting ammunition."

Police said the third suspect, Jefferson da Silva Lima, known as Pelado da Dinha, turned himself at the police station in Atalaia do Norte in the Amazon. Police said the suspect will be referred to a custody hearing.

Two other men are already in prison for alleged involvement in the killings: Amarildo Oliveira, known as Pelado, and his brother, Oseney de Oliveira, known as Dos Santos.

Phillips and Pereira were last seen June 5 on their boat on the Itaquai river, near the entrance of the Javari Valley Indigenous Territory, which borders Peru and Colombia.

On Friday, federal police said that human remains found in Brazil's remote Am-

azon have been identified as belonging to Phillips, 57. Additional remains found at the site near the city of Atalaia do Norte were confirmed to belong to Indigenous expert Pereira, 41, according to the police statement on Saturday. The remains were found on Wednesday, after fish-

erman Pelado confessed to killing the pair, and took police to the place where he would have buried the bodies. He told officers that he used a firearm to commit the crime.

The remains had arrived in the capital city of Brasilia on Thursday for forensic examinations. □



Guarani Indigenous and human rights activists attend a demonstration in support of British journalist Dom Phillips and Indigenous expert Bruno Pereira, demanding authorities conduct a thorough investigation into the circumstances leading to their deaths, and do more to protect indigenous lands against illegal miners, loggers, and fishermen, in Sao Paulo, Brazil, Saturday, June 18, 2022.

Associated Press

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your personal choice with one of the most exclusive wine from the great selection of international wines to compliment your dish. Kids will enjoy every item of the specially compiled kids menu and there are also optional dishes for all vegans, vegetarians and gluten-free guests. To end the culinary voyage with some luscious sweetness, the desserts are wild. From a piece of coconut flan, NY cheese cake, carrot cake, chocolate brownie or our classic Tiramisu with kahlua and amaretto served with chocolate sauce and coffee jelly. Not to mention the fresh and light piece of key lime pie.

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University students of Aruba present findings of their survey about the potential of a school garden

ORANJESTAD – Recently, University of Aruba students Taisha Henriquez and Zayliyah Danje presented the findings of their survey “Why are School gardens an added value to Aruba’s Food Security and Children’s wellbeing?”

The government's main goal is to stimulate the primary sector in Aruba. Not only for food security but also to allow the youth to come in contact with this sector.

In 2019 the “Hof di Amistad”, the project started with the objective to start school gardens (orchards) backed by a maintenance plan by the students. Currently, two participating schools allow for measuring the development and success of each one. This makes it possible to adjust the model into a more durable and practical format to reach the main goal and effectiveness of the gardens.

Many other schools want to create their school garden but encounter setbacks for different reasons. Some obstacles are the high irrigation or maintenance costs and the upkeep during the vacation seasons. Despite these obstacles, some schools are trying hard to establish a small garden for the children to enjoy.

Santa Rosa, the government department in charge of the primary sector, wants to evaluate this project to help develop a more sustainable plan to stimulate more school gardens in Aruban schools.

According to the Director of Santa Rosa, Mrs. Nathalie

Maduro, each school garden is a valuable educational tool. It serves to create awareness and stimulate the youth about the importance of a country establishing healthy food security for its community. It can also become a professional career, lowering the dependency on imported food and further job creation.

In March 2022, Santa Rosa presented the research theme to the University of Aruba as part of a project for the students to assist with its execution. Two students were selected, Taisha Henriquez and Zayliyah Danje of the Social Works faculty, to initiate the research through a survey, in collaboration with the Santa Rosa, about the theme “Why are School Gardens an added value to Aruba’s Food Security and Children’s wellbeing?”

The students collected data for their research and visited the two existing school garden projects and other entities where Santa Rosa assisted with workshops and planting materials in the past.

Another essential aspect of the research is a survey sent to teachers, former teachers, parents, professionals, and department heads. The aim was to get a better view of how each of these groups sees the effectiveness of developing more school gardens and the possible impact these can have on the children's health and development. Data shows that the teachers and the parents are more intrigued by this project and recognize the benefits of stimulating food

cultivation from a young age.

However, there is a financial and commitment obstacles to maintaining these school gardens. There is now a better overview because of the research. Santa Rosa has a better perspective on the future school gardens and can work on the possible solutions to make each garden successful.

The students have created an informative poster illustrating the five characteristics that make school gardens a beneficial tool concerning the social, nutritional value as well as personal development of



each child. Santa Rosa is grateful to Mrs. Yolanda Richardson, a teacher at the Research Methodology Introduction Module at the Art & Science Faculty of the University of Aruba for her cooperation. Santa Rosa is also very grateful to students Taisha Henriquez and Zayliyah Danje for their dedication in executing the

research and presenting the report to Mrs. Nathalie Maduro in the presence of Mr. Ludwig Rasmijn, responsible for the school projects.

For more information, contact the Department of Agriculture, Livestock, and Fishery (Santa Rosa) at 5858102 or info@santarosa.aw. □

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Over a decade in business, Aruba Living Today: Offering the so much needed human touch



NOORD — We are in 2022. It's been a wild ride with Covid-19 and we all are aiming for a change of routine. We simply want to "live" life again. "It is time for living your dream," as the quote says at Aruba Living Today's office. "We are ten plus years in business, and I am proud to say that all our clients stuck with us. We are no part of a big company, we keep it small, personal, and real. Because you are not a number, no sales target either and certainly your name is not commission. Our responsibility is to make your dream come true," says owner Randolph Arends.

From human to human

If you have decided to buy a house or rent one for vacation in Aruba and you are looking for that match, the question now is how to click with a person that offers a personal touch? One who pays genuine attention and has sincere interest in what you want? This different approach to real estate is what sets Aruba Living Today apart, and the reason Randolph calls himself a property mediator instead of a real estate broker. "The personal touch is essential to me. I am stepping aside of the image that real estate brokers are only in for the commission. This image does not fit me at all, I am in for my passion, and I



can only do this from the heart."

One stop shopping point

Services offered by Aruba Living Today are House and Land Sales, Rentals, Investments, Property Management, Vacation Rental, Mortgages, Insurances, Maintenance, Assist in Arrangements for Notary and Utilities, Guiding Bureaucracy Process and Assisting in Import of Furniture. Randolph and his business partner Berend Prenger are a fantastic, experienced duo, each of them specialists in the field. Berend is also a certified appraiser within the Dutch Kingdom meaning he does your appraisal report that is accepted by all banks and he delivers within three days. "This definitely speeds up the process of buying," Prenger adds.

You are welcome to meet in person

Aruba Living Today houses in an authentic Aruban house, welcoming you in a warm ambiance that emphasizes the philosophy of connecting. Candles, Buddha ornaments and a homey setting form the décor for you to sit and talk about your dream house or investment. "My goal was to do real estate in a different way when I established this company June 1st 2009. Not from the perspective of only selling,

but to look for the perfect match between dream house and client. My philosophy is: it will only work when all involved are happy and connected by that personal touch."

Aruba Living Today caters for both local and foreign market divided into 40 % local buyers and 60 % foreign buyers. "Our customers come from Holland, Belgium, Norway, Germany, UK, Russia, Latin America, United States and Canada. We are widely covered and thus provable good with different cultures, also we speak four languages." Besides that, Aruba Living Today is open to every budget, they have listings for all category buyers. As a member of the Aruban Real Estate Association, they are listed also on the website www.arubalisting.com within a group of 20 of the most advanced realtors on the island. Aruba Living Today is featured on House Hunters, social media, Aruba Living Today and of course in Aruba Today's newspaper. Aruba Living Today



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Millennial Money: Maximize your music festival savings

By **DALIA RAMIREZ**
of **NerdWallet**

Attendees of this year's Coachella music festival have posted viral videos adding up their expenses from the weekend — with costs reaching the thousands for flights, hotels, food, drinks, outfits and rideshares. Plus the ticket, which can start around \$400 for a three-day pass to a popular festival like Lollapalooza or Coachella.

Summer music festivals can be a once-in-a-lifetime experience, but costs can easily blow a hole in any budget. If you've decided to take the plunge this summer, here are a few ways to keep your festival spending in check.

CHECK OUT CREDIT CARD REWARDS

One of the best ways to make the most of your money at a music festival is to take advantage of credit card rewards for entertainment purchases. The right card can get you cash back on tickets, access to lower-cost presale tickets or free add-ons like food and lounge entry. Some can even get you access to exclusive artist performances and activities like a Ferris wheel ride. Travel-specific credit cards can help you save on flights and hotels if you're attending an out-of-town festival, and many offer rewards for car rentals and Uber rides as well.



In this May 26, 2018, file photo, people listen to Michael Franti perform at the BottleRock Napa Valley music festival in Napa, Calif.

Associated Press

PLAN AHEAD FOR HIDDEN COSTS

If you're unprepared for full days of walking and dancing — and strict rules on what's allowed inside the festival gates — you may find yourself paying for unexpected necessities including food, water and transportation.

Kaitlin Gomez is a nursing student and avid festival-goer based in Irvine, California, attending a multi-day music event almost every month.

With her devotion to these experiences, she's learned to prepare in advance so she's not overspending inside the festival. She recommends eating beforehand (and drinking, if that's your cup of tea), and carpooling if possible. Pro tip: Many festivals have limited free parking available if you arrive early enough to score a spot.

Her biggest cost saver, though, has been purchasing "investment pieces that last years and work with festival rules," like a backpack with a built-in hydration pack, sturdy shoes and a portable charger. Events can overcharge for on-site food (\$17 for an order of chicken tenders at Coachella), water bottles and even phone charging access, so coming prepared keeps costs in check. And a note on lodging: While some festivals, like Coachella, offer a camping option for a price, some do not. So if you need a hotel, shop around and book early. Airbnbs often tack an extra \$100 or more in fees on top of the booking price, so a shared hotel room may be the most cost-effective option.

CHOOSE PAYMENT PLAN OR PRESALE

Most festivals offer a few

options to pay for your ticket. The first is paying for the entire ticket price outright, which can vary depending on when you make your purchase. Festivals usually have several "tiers," starting at the lowest price for customers with presale access, and up to hundreds of dollars more for tickets purchased within weeks of the event. Signing up for presale, especially with exclusive access from a participating credit card company, can guarantee you the lowest possible price.

But if you don't have the funds to cover an entire ticket at one time, a zero-interest payment plan from the event company can make the cost more manageable. Though it can cost a small convenience fee to pay in installments, "it doesn't feel like as much of a financial impact when you're only paying a fraction every month," says Gomez.

A Coachella ticket, for example, can be purchased for \$99 down, with the rest paid at around \$44 a month for the next eight months.

JOIN THE SOCIAL MEDIA COMMUNITY

Going to a half-dozen festivals every year may seem unfeasible, but in this era of social media, that kind of devotion can pay off. Gomez and thousands of others have grown and monetized their online followings

to fund their music festival habits, earning themselves free tickets and commissions in the process.

"Create valuable content and the partnerships will come," says Adriana Ramos, an Austin, Texas-based life coach, digital marketing consultant and creator of festival blog VibeWithAde.com. Ramos has spent years sharing her festival experiences and advice, which has helped her build a strong platform with a loyal audience on her website, YouTube and Instagram.

Because of her influence, event organizers and affiliated brands have offered Ramos free tickets and the opportunity to make a commission from her followers' ticket purchases in exchange for making promotional social media content. With some events and brands, you can apply directly to become an affiliate partner.

Individual content creators are a valuable source of marketing for large festival brands, so if you're willing to invest the time, interacting with the festival community online can help you attend more events at a reduced cost.

WEIGH YOUR PRIORITIES

Even with credit card rewards, planning ahead and partnering with event brands, a music festival ticket can still be a serious investment. □

Bitcoin inches up above psychological threshold of \$20,000

OAKLAND, California (AP) — The price of a bitcoin inched above \$20,000 on Sunday after the broader crypto selloff dragged it below the significant psychological threshold a day earlier.

The price of the world's most popular cryptocurrency was \$20,129.70 as of Sunday afternoon. On Saturday, bitcoin had plunged as much as 9.7% to less than \$18,600 by late afternoon on the East Coast, according to the cryptocurrency news site CoinDesk. At some points during Saturday, it was below \$18,000.

On Sunday, though, the volatile cryptocurrency climbed higher, though it is still more than 70% below its November 2020 all-time high of nearly \$69,000. Many in the industry had believed it would not fall under \$20,000 again.

Ethereum, another widely followed cryptocurrency that has been sliding in recent weeks, took a similar tumble Saturday to well below \$1,000 but also regained ground Sunday, adding nearly 11% to \$1,101.81.

The cryptocurrency industry has seen turmoil amid

wider turbulence in financial markets. This past week was Wall Street's worst since 2020, during the early days of the coronavirus pandemic.

Investors are selling off riskier assets because central banks are raising interest rates to combat quickening inflation. Higher rates can help bring down inflation, but they also heighten the chances of a recession by increasing borrowing costs for consumers and businesses and pushing down prices for stocks, and other investments like cryptocurrencies. □



An advertisement of Bitcoin, one of the cryptocurrencies, is displayed on a building in Hong Kong, on Nov. 18, 2021.

Associated Press

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

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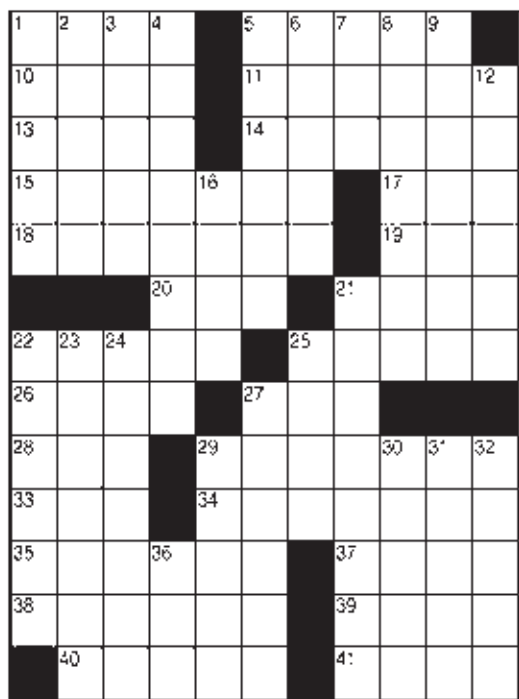
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6-20

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

6-20 CRYPTOQUOTE

O W W O K C K J E K T G W H K

Y O C K T T G W H K M T X G K

H W Y X G W A J T G J N S .

— Q J N T J O T G M N K

Saturday's Cryptoquote: THE HEART OF A
FATHER IS THE MASTERPIECE OF NATURE.
ANTOINE FRANCOIS PREVOST

River trash traps chew at huge ocean plastics problem



Mr. Trash Wheel, a mechanism that collects trash from tributaries that feed into Baltimore's Inner Harbor sits in the water, Friday, May 13, 2022, in Baltimore.

Associated Press

By JANET McCONNAUGHEY
Associated Press

Floating fences in India. Whimsical water- and solar-driven conveyor belts with googly eyes in Baltimore. Rechargeable aquatic drones and a bubble barrier in The Netherlands.

These are some of the sophisticated and at times low-tech inventions being deployed to capture plastic trash in rivers and streams before it can pollute the world's oceans.

The devices are fledgling attempts to dent an estimated 8.8 million tons (8 metric tons) of plastic that gets into the ocean every year.

Once there, it maims or kills marine plants and animals including whales, dolphins, and seabirds and accumulates in the Great Pacific Garbage Patch and other vast swirls of currents.

Trash-gobbling traps on rivers and other waterways won't eliminate ocean plastic but can help reduce it, say officials with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Marine Debris Program.

"It's just hard to get out to

our big open oceans and collect the trash there," said Director Nancy Wallace. "We'd much rather collect that trash closer to shore, which is easier. It's less costly, and we can have that impact before it gets into the ocean."

Trash is blown, washed or thrown into waterways nearly everywhere. Storm drains funnel in litter tossed onto streets. In places without refuse collection, people use convenient waters to carry trash away.

The science of plastic pollution is new and almost as much in flux as the waters it studies. For instance, a scientist who reported in 2017 that rivers might carry anywhere from 450,000 to 4.4 million tons (410,000 to 4 million metric tons) of plastic a year into the sea also was part of a 2021 study that narrowed the range considerably, with an upper limit of nearly 3 million tons (2.7 million metric tons).

"Compared to other pollutants ... available data on plastics is still scarce," Christian Schmidt, of the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research in

Leipzig, Germany, wrote in an email.

D.C. Sekhar of Bengaluru, India, designed a low-tech trap for rivers in his country after he left a career in commercial shipping.

As an oil tanker captain, "I had traveled around the world and seen waterbodies that were fairly clean," while trash fouled India's, he said.

Wanting something modular, inexpensive, easy to maintain and able to withstand monsoons, he designed stainless steel mesh fences that extend above and below aluminum floats 3.9 feet (1.2 meters) long. Sekhar's AlphaMERS Ltd. has installed big floating barriers across rivers at eight southern cities from Hyderabad to Tuticorin. Each is angled to guide trash to a riverbank where excavators pile it into dump trucks.

Eight traps on India's Cooum River at Chennai, costing about \$120,000 total, corralled about 2,400 tons (2,200 metric tons) of plastics and 21,800 tons (19,800 metric tons) of other trash and floating plants in 2018, their first year in position, said Sekhar.

The system with the biggest fan base may be the anthropomorphized Trash Wheels at the mouths of four Baltimore watersheds. "We've got 100,000 followers across major social media platforms," said Adam Lindquist, vice president of programs and environmental initiatives for the Waterfront Partnership of Baltimore, which owns three devices.

"They are a really great model for how to get the public involved and attentive to the issue," MaryLee Haughwout, then acting director of NOAA's Marine Debris Program, said in April.

The program has helped pay for trash traps in the Anacostia River outside Washington, D.C., and the Tijuana River estuary in California and Mexico but is not involved with the Trash Wheels. □

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24/7

Court rejects Trump-era EPA finding that weed killer safe



Containers of Roundup are displayed on a store shelf in San Francisco, on Feb. 24, 2019.

Associated Press

By **MATTHEW DALY**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal appeals court on Friday rejected a Trump administration finding that the active ingredient in the weed killer Roundup does not pose a serious health risk and is "not likely" to cause cancer in humans. The California-based 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ordered the Environmental Protection Agency to reexamine its 2020 finding that glyphosate did not pose a health risk for people exposed to it by any means — on farms, yards or roadsides or as residue left on food crops.

Glyphosate is the active ingredient in Roundup, the most widely used herbicide in the world. Pharmaceutical giant Bayer, which acquired the herbicide's original producer Monsanto in 2018, is facing thousands

of claims from people who say Roundup exposure caused their cancer.

Roundup will remain available for sale. According to an agency spokesman, EPA officials are reviewing the 54-page ruling "and will decide next steps." The Supreme Court is also considering whether to hear an appeal from Bayer that could shut down thousands of lawsuits on the cancer claims.

Writing for a unanimous three-judge panel, Judge Michelle Friedland said EPA's finding of no risk to human health "was not supported by substantial evidence." She also ruled that EPA fell short of its obligations under the Endangered Species Act by inadequately examining glyphosate's impact on animal species and vegetation.

Legal critics said EPA

"shirked its duties under the Endangered Species Act. We agree and remand to the agency for further consideration," wrote Friedland, a nominee of former President Barack Obama. The Center for Food Safety, one of the groups that challenged the decision, called Friday's ruling "a historic victory for farmworkers and the environment." The decision "gives voice to those who suffer from glyphosate's cancer, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma," said Amy van Saun, senior attorney with the center.

"EPA's 'no cancer' risk conclusion did not stand up to scrutiny," she said. "The court agreed that EPA needed to ensure the

safety of endangered species before greenlighting glyphosate."

While EPA has said it has not found evidence of cancer risk from glyphosate, California and other states have listed it as a cancer risk and local governments across the country have restricted its use. In 2015, the World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer classified the chemical as "probably carcinogenic." □

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Cruz and Banderas united by humor in 'Official Competition'

By **BERENICE BAUTISTA**

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — What is art? Do awards make you a better artist? Are blockbuster movies only for pseudo-actors? These are some questions unleashed in "Official Competition," a comedy starring Penélope Cruz, Antonio Banderas and Oscar Martínez in a battle of egos.

Throughout the film, directed by Argentinians Mariano Cohn and Gastón Duprat, the deadly sin of vanity is experienced with great intensity. It is felt from the beginning, when an old businessman (José Luis Gómez) seeks to leave his mark on history by financing a film about two brothers fighting to the death directed by a renowned filmmaker — even though he never read the novel in which it is based.

The director is Lola Cuevas (Cruz), a relentless woman with no filter, passionate about film down to the smallest detail, but with a rather unconventional approach.

"She believes that her actors must suffer to get a better result," Cruz said in a recent interview from New York, where the film was shown at the Tribeca Festival ahead of its theatrical release on Friday in the US. "She's a very peculiar character, very quirky, but that's why she's so fascinating. When I read it (I said) 'how wonderful, how lucky to be able to play a person like that, a being with no filters who says everything she feels and thinks and doesn't care what people think of her'", the Academy Award-winning actress added.

One of Lola's first jaw-dropping comments on the film is that "an artist without children has a great advantage, he can create freely, without fear. When there are children, there is panic." Cruz, who is a mother of two, disagrees with her character's statement.

"You can take (motherhood) into your work, for sure it's a big injection to creativity. Even if you are much more tired all the time, it doesn't matter, it's

worth it," said the actor, who recently was recognized with Spain's 2022 National Film Award for her contributions to the art. In "Official Competition", Lola summons two equally

tors like his character in real life.

"My career was built little by little," said Banderas. "I basically started in theater, which is very helpful, because theater con-

another in which the director is alone on the floor talking to herself through a plastic tube, insulting herself.

"I think it's a very funny and pathetic moment, where

to resume it in September of that year.

"The nice thing about this is that I see the movie now and I don't remember what was shot in March and what was shot in September. I think we recovered the tone that we had when we left the movie ... and luckily we didn't lose inspiration," said Banderas. Playing a director has only fueled a spark that Cruz has since she was 16. The actor directed a documentary, 2016's "Yo Soy Uno Entre Cien Mil," as well as two short films for Agent Provocateur, a lingerie brand.

"It is something that I want to do for sure in my life," Cruz said. "I am preparing a documentary now that is gonna take me a few years, because it's complicated and requires different treatments, different locations. It's not an easy subject to approach. I need time to do it right," she added, without revealing any details.

Although they have known each other for about 30 years and consider themselves friends, "Official Competition" is the first film in which Cruz and Banderas have numerous scenes and dialogues together. Before, they had shared small scenes in Pedro Almodóvar's "Pain and Glory" and "I'm So Excited!" "It was a pleasure and especially in a comedy world, although deep down it is a very thoughtful and complex film," Banderas said. "Seeing her create a character ... that has nothing to do with her, that is so different from who she is, it was very beautiful." □



This image released by IFC Films shows Antonio Banderas, left, and Penelope Cruz in a scene from "Official Competition."

Associated Press

recognized but diametrically opposed actors: Iván Torres (Martínez), a very experienced Argentine who has his own school, does theater and hates the deceptive glitter of fame; and Félix Rivero (Banderas), a star of international stature with many awards and blockbuster films, but who tends to be late for rehearsals. The tension is present from the first script reading and increases but, secretly, little by little, Iván and Félix begin to do things that they learn from the other, while trying to demonstrate their superiority.

"They are dangerous animals. They can destroy themselves in order to obtain the predominant position in that production," said Banderas in a video call from New York.

For the Spanish actor, one of the points of the film is that "you can see how easy it is for people to become what they criticize." He has avoided falling into the mistakes that Félix makes, despite having a world-renowned career, precisely as a result of meeting ac-

fronts you with yourself very strongly every day, you have an audience that responds, or not, to whatever you're doing, and you start analyzing yourself in a completely different way that cinema actors do. ... I think it's sometimes very dangerous when you have a very successful career very early."

In "Official Competition", Lola acts as a referee, but also as a sparring partner, inciting confrontation between the two actors — if the tension is real, her film will be better, she thinks. One of the tests she puts them through to combat their egos is the destruction of their awards, including her own Palm d'Or and Silver Lion.

"You can take that very seriously, you can just think that is a very real exercise to any human being just to break that kind of attachment that we have to objects, and those objects that they represent things that we obtain in life," said Banderas.

That was one of Cruz's favorite scenes, along with

you also see the lost girl she has inside," said Cruz, whose character sports big red, curly hair.

"It was a big statement," she said of of Lola's appearance. "She's not trying to hide herself, she wants people to see her, to look at her. She thinks she always has the most interesting things to say in the room. She is such an ego-maniac."

Coupled with the great personalities of the three main characters, the film, shot in San Lorenzo de El Escorial, Spain, takes place in a cultural complex whose gloomy and modern architecture contrasts with the absurdity of the scenes, but also makes it feel like a conceptual art performance.

"Being in those spaces brings up so many questions about art — What is wrong? What is right?," said Cruz. "Being in that space is like all that information was floating everywhere in the room".

The shooting began in early 2020 and was cut short in March by the coronavirus pandemic. They were able

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World swimming bans transgender athletes from women's events

By CIARÁN FAHEY

AP Sports Writer

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP)

— World swimming's governing body has effectively banned transgender women from competing in women's events, starting Monday.

FINA members widely adopted a new "gender inclusion policy" on Sunday that only permits swimmers who transitioned before age 12 to compete in women's events. The organization also proposed an "open competition category." "This is not saying that people are encouraged to transition by the age of 12. It's what the scientists are saying, that if you transition after the start of puberty, you have an advantage, which is unfair," James Pearce, who is the spokesperson for FINA president Husain Al-Musallam, told The Associated Press. "They're not saying everyone should transition by age 11, that's ridiculous. You can't transition by that age in most countries and hopefully you wouldn't be encouraged to. Basically, what they're saying is that it is not feasible for people who have transitioned to compete without having an advantage."

The World Professional Association for Transgender Health just lowered its recommended minimum age for starting gender transition hormone treatment to 14 and some surgeries to 15 or 17.

FINA's new 24-page policy also proposed a new "open competition" category. The organization said it was setting up "a new working group that will spend the next six months looking at the most effective ways to set up this new category."

Pearce told the AP that the open competition would most likely mean more events, but those details still need to be worked out. "No one quite knows how this is going to work. And we need to include a lot of different people, including transgender athletes, to work out how it would work," he said. "So there are no details of how that

would work. The open category is something that will start being discussed tomorrow."

The members voted 71.5% in favor at the organization's extraordinary general congress after hearing presentations from three specialist groups — an athlete group, a science and medicine group and a legal and human rights group — that had been working together to form the policy following recommendations given by the International Olympic Committee last November.

The IOC urged shifting the focus from individual testosterone levels and calling for evidence to prove when a performance advantage existed.

FINA's "deeply discrimina-

tory, harmful, unscientific" new policy is "not in line with (the IOC's) framework on fairness, inclusion and non-discrimination on the basis of gender identity and sex variations," Anne Lieberman of Athlete Ally, a nonprofit that advocates for LGBTQ athletes, said in a statement.

"The eligibility criteria for the women's category as it is laid out in the policy (will) police the bodies of all women, and will not be enforceable without seriously violating the privacy and human rights of any athlete looking to compete in the women's category," Lieberman said.

FINA said it recognizes "that some individuals and groups may be uncomfortable with the use of medi-



University of Pennsylvania athlete Lia Thomas prepares for the 500 meter freestyle at the NCAA Swimming and Diving Championships, March 17, 2022, at Georgia Tech in Atlanta.

Associated Press

cal and scientific terminology related to sex and sex-linked traits (but) some use of sensitive terminology is needed to be precise about the sex characteristics that justify separate

competition categories." In March, Lia Thomas made history in the United States as the first transgender woman to win an NCAA swimming championship, the 500-yard freestyle. □

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Fitzpatrick a winner again at Brookline as U.S. Open champion

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

BROOKLINE, Mass. (AP) —

Matt Fitzpatrick of England is a champion again at The Country Club, this time with the grandest of trophies in golf.

A U.S. Amateur champion in 2013. The U.S. Open champion Sunday.

In a three-way battle at Brookline that came down to the wire, Fitzpatrick seized control with a great break and an even better shot on the 15th hole for a two-shot swing. He was just as clutch from a fairway bunker on the 18th that set up par for a 2-under 68.

Victory was not secure until Will Zalatoris, who showed amazing fight back from every mistake, dropped to his knees when his 15-foot birdie putt on the 18th just slid by the left side of the cup. Zalatoris, who closed with a 69, was a runner-up in the second straight major.

Masters champion Scottie Scheffler never recovered from back-to-back bogeys to start the back nine that cost him the lead. He had a 25-foot birdie chance on the 18th that just missed and left him one behind with a 67.

Along with the \$3.15 million in prize money, Fitzpatrick had that gold Jack Nicklaus medal draped around his neck, which was only fitting.



Matthew Fitzpatrick, of England, reacts after a putt on the 13th hole during the final round of the U.S. Open golf tournament at The Country Club, Sunday, June 19, 2022, in Brookline, Mass.

Associated Press

Fitzpatrick is the second man to win a U.S. Amateur and U.S. Open on the same course, joining Nicklaus, who turned the trick at Pebble Beach. Juli Inkster won the U.S. Women's Amateur and U.S. Women's Open at Prairie Dunes.

Fitzpatrick, who briefly played at Northwestern before turning pro, won for the eighth time worldwide, and this was his first in America — at least a tournament everyone knows about. He won the member-member at The Bear's Club in Florida at the start of the year, the course Nicklaus built.

"He gave me a bit of abuse at the start of the year. He said, 'Finally. Congratulations for winning in the States,'" Fitzpatrick said.

And then slightly lifting the trophy, Fitzpatrick sent a fun message to Nicklaus: "Jack, I won a second time."

It took a good break, a signature shot and some guts at the end.

Fitzpatrick and Zalatoris were tied going to the 15th when the Englishman hit his tee shot so far right that it went into the gallery and found a decent lie on grass that was dead and trampled. Zalatoris missed by

only a few yards and was buried in deep grass.

He hit 5-iron from 220 yards to 18 feet below the hole. Zalatoris went into the front bunker, blasted out to 25 feet and made bogey. Fitzpatrick took a two-shot lead when his birdie putt went into the cup with such perfect pace it didn't even touch the pin he leaves in the cup.

Zalatoris again bounced back, taking on a tough pin at the par-3 16th to 7 feet for birdie to cut the lead to one shot. Both missed 12-foot birdie chances on the 17th, and then Fitzpatrick

missed a fairway at the wrong time, pulling it left into a bunker with a steep patch of rough right in front of him.

It looked like a playoff was eminent — the previous three U.S. Opens at Brookline were all decided by a playoff — and then Fitzpatrick fearless hit a fade with a 9-iron that carried the gaping bunker in front of the green and settled 18 feet away.

He narrowly missed and could only watch as Zalatoris missed his last chance. "Matt's shot on 18 is going to be shown probably for the rest of U.S. Open history," Zalatoris said. "I walked by it, and I thought that going for it was going to be ballsy. But the fact that he pulled it off and even had a birdie look was just incredible.

"So hat's off to him. He played great all week obviously and gave a solid round today."

Fitzpatrick finished at 6-under 134.

The 27-year-old Fitzpatrick, the first Englishman since Justin Rose in 2013 to win the U.S. Open, felt his time was coming. He is meticulous in charting his shots and keeps a record of all of them to identify what needs work. And he emphasized speed in his swing over the last two years, giving him the length and the belief to compete with anyone. □



Italy's Matteo Berrettini celebrates with the trophy after beating Serbia's Filip Krajinovic to win the final tennis match at the Queen's Club Championships in London, Sunday, June 19, 2022.

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Matteo Berrettini looks in prime shape for another deep run at Wimbledon.

The second-seeded Italian retained his grass-court Queen's Club title by beating Filip Krajinovic 7-5, 6-4

Berrettini retains Queen's title, looking good for Wimbledon

in the final on Sunday. It backed up his title triumph in Stuttgart last week, which also was on grass.

Wimbledon starts June 27 and Berrettini is heading to the All England Club having won 20 of his last 21 matches on grass — his only loss coming against Novak Djokovic in four sets in last year's Wimbledon final.

"I couldn't ask for a better start to the grass season," Berrettini said. "I am feeling really good — obviously a Slam is different, best-of-five sets. And a lot of pressure is going to be on me.

But I guess that's normal."

Krajinovic was a surprise finalist in west London, having never won a match on grass at ATP level before this week, and the 30-year-old Serb usually tries to skip grass-court events if he can.

"I hated it," Krajinovic said of grass. "But I feel now I want to play on it more and more."

His serve wasn't big enough to threaten the tall and imposing Berrettini, who only gave up two break points and sent down 14 aces — more than double that of

Krajinovic. The last of those came on match point, after which he smashed a ball high into the sky and jumped the advertising hoardings to celebrate with his team and then his father on Father's Day.

Berrettini joined Lleyton Hewitt, Andy Roddick, Andy Murray, Marin Cilic and Feliciano Lopez in being a multiple title winner at Queen's since the turn of the century. He has won every match since returning to action in Stuttgart after three months out with a hand injury. □